



**United States Department of Justice
United States Attorney's Office
District of Minnesota**

**Frank J. Magill,
Acting United States Attorney**

David Anderson, Public Affairs Specialist
(612) 664-5684; cell: (612) 730-2251

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, May 2, 2008

Watkins man sentenced to 42 months for counterfeiting

A 30-year-old Watkins man was sentenced today in federal court to 42 months in prison in connection with counterfeiting \$100 bills.

On May 2 in Duluth, United States District Court Judge Richard Kyle also sentenced Jerry Steven Wuotila to three years of supervised release on five counts of manufacturing counterfeit obligations and other securities of the U.S. Wuotila was indicted on the charge in September 2007 and pleaded guilty on Nov. 6, 2007.

According to a U.S. Secret Service affidavit, Wuotila was arrested on Aug. 15, 2007, by law enforcement in Benton County for fleeing a police officer and the possession of \$12,700 in counterfeit bills. Police also seized items from Wuotila's vehicle that are consistent with a mobile counterfeit manufacturing plant, including a laptop computer. Police also located additional items that were thrown from Wuotila's vehicle during the chase that lead to the arrest. These items included 75 counterfeit \$100 bills, one counterfeit detection pen, and a digital scale.

Wuotila was convicted in 2005, 2006 and 2007 in Benton, Crow Wing, Douglas and Kanabec counties on various forgery charges related to counterfeited obligations of the U.S.

This case was the result of an investigation by the U.S. Secret Service, the Benton County Sheriff's Office and the Sauk Rapids Police Department, and was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Michelle E. Jones.